

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
DATE: JULY 7, 2020
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT RICH PROCTOR

President Rich Proctor called to order the July 7, 2020, ZOOM meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order at 12:00 PM. He announced our Rotary participants and visitors, along with club Birthdays, and Anniversaries. He then shared ideas for his reign over this coming year.

Brian Dunkel is our Virtual Meeting Maestro. He reminded everyone that he would mute us as a group for the meeting, but to please unmute yourself when it is your turn to speak.

Lee LaBrash found an inspirational message she feels goes with our new theme for the year "*Rotary Opens Opportunities*" as well as the spirit of Rotary. The author and creator of website "Skull Mad Mama.", Emma, has an encouraging write up titled, *Finding Peace and Helping Others; How Are They Connected*. "Helping someone is a good deed; you are not only helping someone but also yourself." "When you help someone, it brings a change in you. . ." A quick outline on how we are affected: 1) we feel better about ourselves; 2) we learn to empathize; 3) we know our capabilities; and 4) we acquire inner satisfaction. You can read the full piece by going here - <http://www.skullmadmama.com/finding-peace-and-helping-others-how-are-they-connected/>

Nancy Pace led us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by **Kent Reinker** who led us in our *National Anthem*.

Visitors today were Gwen Pacarro, Dave Benson, Paddy Griggs, Amanda Kelly, Byron Eliashof, Jan Kaeo, DG Naomi Masuno, Scott Wishart, Del Green, Phil Holcolm, Michael Laconsay, and Nancy Youngren. Welcome!

Birthdays: **Tammy Evrard**, July 7th and **Aaron Wallen**, July 7th

Anniversaries: **Amanda Ellis**, 4 years, sponsored by **Board of Directors** and **Jayson Harper**, 9 years, sponsored by **Nancy Pace**

10-MINUTE BREAK OUT SESSION ON ZOOM!

President Rich announced that we are going to experiment with Zoom break out rooms! Our amazing Martha was able to get them up and going, assigned us randomly to a room, where we got to know our fellow Rotarians and friends. **Rich** said it "worked like a charm!" This scribe feels we are all in agreement and can now resume our enjoyable breakout sessions once again!

PRESIDENT RICH & RCOH MEMBERS
Outline of our coming year

President Rich:

For those who didn't know, today is Ringo Starr's 80th birthday. Come on, that can't be! Looking back it seems like only yesterday when I was singing Beatles songs in a high school band and **Carolann Beiderman** was sitting in the stands at Shea Stadium watching the Beatles last live performance. I like to think about those memories from

my past. They can bring moments of comfort, and they can provide valuable lessons. However, I don't always want to look back and use the past as the compass for my forward direction. Sure, I try to avoid making the same mistakes twice, but avoiding mistakes doesn't get me where I want to go.

So where would I like the Rotary Club of Honolulu to go over the next year? Looking back over the last 3 months, it's hard to figure. So let's look forward and first let's take a look at what many of us are thinking in the moment. Here's what we're all facing –

Linda Coble's video *Navigating in the Fog*: Linda had a multitude of questions and concerns she put forth on all our behalves. It was a fun video done in a grey, foggy tone! **Linda** did a great job in her starring role! Below, **Rich** answers her/our questions and concerns.

Rich answers Linda's Questions and Concerns:

Linda, please don't freak out. It's going to be OK. Yes, you've got a lot to be concerned about, and believe me you're not alone. Let's talk about it.

I don't know when we'll be getting back to the Royal. They haven't opened yet and they haven't figured out what they can or cannot do for us. We currently don't have a contract with the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. But let me ask: Can the club survive being away from the Royal? It did in the past and it can in the future. I know many of the members will want us back there as soon as possible. I'll see what we can do.

I don't have a temporary venue in mind right now to replace the Monarch Room. On a smaller scale we will probably be somewhat nomadic until it's safe and permissible for all of us to gather together. I'm putting together a team to research our options. My goal is to have 1 lunch meeting in August and perhaps expand that to 2 lunch meetings in September. **Linda**, I know you want to see your Rotary family in person. It will happen.

Will it be safe? Before we can meet together we'll have to make sure it's a safe place to meet. It might be in an outdoor setting. It might be in a restaurant or a ballroom or another hotel. Initially it will be limited in number, certainly under 50 people. We will follow the guidelines. Before we entertain a particular venue we will give the membership a plan and gather input. Coming back to the meetings in person during this period will be completely voluntary, and I want to make sure as many members as possible are comfortable returning.

We don't know what the cost will be because it might have to be a plated lunch. Each venue we try will be a little different in cost and quality. The future demands that we be a little more flexible than we've been in the past. So don't give up on those buffets, Linda. We may be back there again sooner than later.

To address your concerns about membership and fellowship, let's look at what we know from the survey results. I want to thank 66 of you who gave us input. I was very pleased with the time and consideration some of you made in your responses.

Here's what we do know: **Survey results** [with slide show of graphs and numbers]

1) What benefits do you hope to gain? First of all you said that most of you joined Rotary for community service and that fellowship was of next importance. That's what these bars here show.

2) Why have you remained a member of Rotary? Then, the primary reason you stay in Rotary is for the fellowship followed by the opportunity to perform community service. So how can we enhance fellowship without sitting down together? We're experimenting with breakout rooms in Zoom so when we have the time you can sit with 4 or 5 people in a separate room and get to know each other. It's so much more preferable than trying to talk over 40 other people.

We're going to have 1 Pau Hana meeting a month, which at first will be virtual and then, hopefully at an outdoors establishment where fewer than 50 people can meet. Outdoors would be great. The committee will set up activities for these meetings that may be interesting to members and hopefully some guests. ***The club needs volunteers to help get this organized.***

3) What projects are most important? Here's what you wrote about the projects, which are most important:

- Environmental service 56% - there is a project planned for planting of trees later in the year.
- Peace Initiatives 50% - I like that!
- Light Construction 48% - RAT Pack has something planned
- Literacy/education 45% - We're trying to see where we can do some of this virtually

Some of these projects will be postponed until COVID recedes. Some projects can move forward now. Rat Pack work like standard construction work can be done with social distancing in place. Peace initiatives, mentoring, and some educational opportunities can be started now. You'll hear more about that in a minute.

4) MEETINGS: 53% said Zoom meetings were good as is, and I hope to make them better. There are some silver linings to the Zoom thing. First of all Zoom gives us the opportunity to attract interesting speakers from anywhere. They don't have to be with us at lunch. Second, Zoom allows us to have other Rotarians visit from around the world, and we can have guests from around the world. Some of these guests will hopefully be prospective members.

5) 30% of you don't want to come back to a person-to-person meeting so soon – mostly when a vaccine is developed, but some earlier when it's safe. Right now there is a lot of concern.

6) Hybrid meetings! So when we come back together in person I want to get these folks connected virtually, because 85% said they would continue on the Zoom meetings if they are uncomfortable with meeting in person.

7) Here's what we said would keep us engaged in the meantime

- **Safety:** in person projects, Zoom Pau Hana, and other gatherings
- **More Events:** Pau Hana's and social events with members
- **More International service projects** – we can do this but it costs money
- **Really good speakers/more good speakers – stimulating programs:** As I mentioned, Zoom allows us to bring speakers in from anywhere. If you know someone who would be a good speaker and interested in coming to one of our meetings, please give that information to **Alice Tucker** or **Beth-Ann Kozlovich** who is our program chair on the board. Let's make it our job to create the content we want to see.
- **More RAT Pack projects:** We've been hampered with social distancing concerns of late, but there is a project ahead at the park once the topsoil has been laid down. If anyone has a project that the Rat Pack group might be able to tackle, please talk to **Reese Liggett** who is chair of the Rat Pack committee.
- **Zoom meetings weekly and at least once a month social/fun meeting** – we'll be working on this.
- **Keep innovating the program and uses of Zoom and other remote tools**
- **Virtual community service opportunities** - things like checking on in seniors via nonprofits who serve them; providing technical assistance/advice remotely to communities and organizations in need;
- **Other virtual opportunities:** I'm not sure what this is but we have to look into it
- **Focused on networking and fellowship** – working on it
- **I think RCOH is doing a fantastic job and putting in so much effort to keep everyone engaged. As a new member, I really appreciate it.** New member – whoever you are – I appreciate that
- **Have outside social meeting twice monthly with less people and people who feel safe to attend.** This might be a small dinner or cocktail party on someone's lanai. We can do this.
- **Facilitated networking to connect with other members of the club. I'm here for the people and the service**
- **Offer modified Service projects to participate in.** I think by “modified” the member was aiming at projects that didn't require as much physical exertion as the Rat Pack projects might.
- **We should probably move to a smaller, less costly venue that allows people to participate in person as well as via Zoom.** Again becoming more flexible is the order of the day.

39% said they would like to take a leadership role and we have 10 members who want to get more involved. **Thank you! We'll be in touch.**

There will be a board workshop coming up on July 25th to discuss some of these opportunities. Speaking about the board...

So far I've talked about what **I** want to do, and what **you** want to do in a singular tense. But it's not up to me. RCOH is made up of many people dedicated to making the world a

better place by donating their time, talent, and treasure. Some of these folks are on the board.

Every year there is a change in the board positions and I want to personally thank those out going board members - **James Pierce, Sally Mist, Sarah Nordwall, Steve Nikkola** and **Gwen Yamamoto Lau**, who's really not leaving but staying on as president elect. Not to worry, **Gwen**, it will all be figured out by next year!

I especially want to thank **Bub Wo** who will be leaving the board but hopefully not stepping away from leadership. I consider **Bub** to be the embodiment of a true Rotarian and an inspiration to me. Thank you, **Bub**, for all your service to Rotary and for all you've done for this club. And thank you again for the flowers. I don't know how you do it.

I'm really excited about the make up of the RCOH board this year. Continuing on are **Karin Holma** who will take over membership recruitment, **Lyla Berg** who will remain as community service chair, **Ann Miller** who is the international service chair, and **Diana Sakurai** who will remain as the vocational service chair; and **Gwen Yamamoto Lau** who I previously mentioned. And of course **Paul Saito** will be there as past president to hopefully help guide me away from the rocks and shallow water.

New to the board this year is **Scotty Anderson** who will be our secretary. **Tom Coyne** who is in charge of weekly operations – hopefully he'll soon be assigning someone to validate our parking. Then there's **Beth-Ann Kozlovich** who will handle weekly programs. **Beth-Ann** unfortunately has a corporate COVID meeting at this time so she has been unable to join us on Tuesdays. **Bob Sumpf** will be in charge of membership retention. **Donalyn Delacruz** will handle Rotary relations and communications and help us with our media presence. And then there's **Brian Dunkel** who is the youth services chair, and who I affectionately refer to as our Rotarian Swiss army knife. There's not much Brian can't seem to handle.

Let's give our board members a big hand. They are a very important part of the club's success in the coming year. And to give you a taste of what they're cooking up for the coming year, let's hear from some of our service chairs:

Brian Dunkel, Youth Services Director: [Via video]

Hi everyone! So far 2020 has already been a challenging year, and we can be sure many more challenges are likely yet to come. However, I'm still quite excited about the opportunities that our upcoming Rotary year will also bring.

As Chair the Youth Services Committee for our club, I'd like to share with you some of our activities in the 2020-2021 service year. First, I hope to raise our clubs profile in the district in relation to Rotaract, Interact, and other youth outreach programs sponsored by Rotary in Hawaii.

Some of you may have already signed up with **James Pierce** to volunteer your valuable time as mentors to the Rotaract Club of Honolulu at HPU, which I hope can serve as a model for similar projects in the future.

We will have a major opportunity also, to support the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, or RYLA camp, led this year by our own **Rick Tabor**. We plan to broaden our outreach for the 4-Way Speech Contest and to reimagine our support for the 'Olelo video contest sponsored by our Peacemakers committee led ably by **Lyla Berg**.

Of course we also have the, Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation Scholarship, the Will Henderson Scholarship, and other scholarship programs to benefit the young people of Hawaii that we will support and champion throughout the year. I hope that many of you will join me in the coming months both in supporting the Youth of our Rotary District and helping to build a cohort of future Rotarians to keep our club and our 'aina, strong and vibrant for years to come! Thank you!

Diana Sakurai, Vocational Service Director: [Via video]

Aloha! It has been my great pleasure to head up the Literacy committee. Over the years, we've organized and had fun at over **50** rotary story times with dozens of our Rotarians participating in reading and doing crafts with underprivileged children. Our efforts have been stifled by the recent virus but we have high hopes for the future. The Governor announced that schools will be back in session with modified attendance this August, so our literacy efforts will follow suit.

Hawaii Literacy organization has a new executive director, whom I'm looking forward to meeting with in near future and discussing all the different ways that Rotary may help out. We will continue to keep our hearts and minds open to modified story times, modified community service efforts, and any other ways we may be of service. Stay tuned and lets keep this important work going. It is simply too big for us to stop!

Besides vocational work, we *know* that one of the reasons our members join our club is to connect on a professional level, and to share information about their businesses, so we plan on reintroducing the Vocational Minute at our meetings. This will allow us to get to know each others work a little better and become a continued source of referral

Paul Harris meetings will continue in the future. A big shout out to **Sam Haas** for organizing the most creative, educational, and *fun* gatherings over the last year! We look forward to seeing what new meetings she will concoct for us. In all likelihood, there will smaller gatherings, and we will look at outdoor venues, to conduct Paul Harris meetings in a safe and responsible way.

Lastly, our Pau Hana's: Well, we did 1 out of 2 planned last year with Covid stopping our second one in our tracks in May. However, we will continue to plan to do them either in person or virtually. Please stay tuned. Help us think outside the box, and please stay engaged! Mahalo!

Ann Stamp-Miller, International Service Director: [via a video]

Wished Rich a fun and fruitful year. She gave thanks to **Don Anderson** and **Dave Shanahan** for their work and planning the international projects.

Ann shared great news that the Consuelo Foundation completed the Philippine project, even though our club could not go! The improvements made: a multi-purpose hall was built, a covered walkway constructed, basketball and volleyball courts created, and the water system as improved!

Further, while the Bali trip for August was cancelled, it is rescheduled for January! The project will be for a middle school in a rural area where they will be working on dormitories.

Ann shares her hope that more will consider going on an International Project stating, "It's a great way to bond with Rotarians and make new friends and great around the world, and learn more about the history and culture of the areas." "Please consider either participating in an international project or one of the many we have going on here in our club. It is really life changing!"

Lyla Berg, Community Service Director:

THANK YOU so much, **Rich**, for allowing me to be the Community Services Chair again this year!

We have a FABULOUS array of opportunities coming up for our club members to enjoy, share their talents, skills, and strengths, and to help Rotary become more visible as the humanitarian organization we are.

The Community Service Committee is dedicated this year to focusing specifically on contributing to 3 of the 6 Rotary International goals:

- Peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Basic education and literacy
- Community development

Our long-standing activities will continue –

- **Diana's** Literacy Project
- Our sponsorship for the 14th year of the 'Olelo Youth Xchange video contest
- The Kūpuna Kokua Committee will partner with various community agencies – and they are planning to give out more free hearing aids to seniors who need them.
- **Gwen** is preparing her proposal for our Rotary Gives Thanks project.
- **Reese Liggett** and **Ron Tsukamaki** are, of course, leading the pack of RATS – the Rotary Action Team spirits – in various projects on Oahu still to be determined.
- **Hugh Damon** is chairing our Environmental Committee, working with other Rotary clubs as part of the "Carbon Neutrality Challenge" of UH Prof. Camilo Mora.
- All things considered, we are also planning to have our Holiday activity at the Shriner's Hospital 'Ohana Center for the children who are in long-term residence there.

- **Laren Eustace** will be recruiting our members, other Rotarians, and colleagues from various professional organizations to carry the Rotary flag in the October “Men’s March Against Violence
- We will be offering mediation orientation sessions and working on creating a youth model to offer schools.
- I’m really excited to share that we have been asked to be mentors for the youth service projects that the organization Ceeds of Peace uses to develop youth leadership skills.
- We will again be asking our club members, and inviting our club to take the lead with all Rotarians in District 5000 to sign a Rotary Pledge to Promote Peace and a Rotary Mediation Pledge.
- And one last activity of the community services committee – we are transitioning our former Jerry Chang Peace Award into the Rotary Peacemaker Recognition with an “awardee” being recognized in every District 5000 club.

I hope you will come and “play” with us,

SO... ONWARD! IMUA!!!

Thanks, again, **Rich!!**

President Rich:

I’m excited for as you can see we have an ambitious year in front of us. You know it takes 2 things to accomplish what has been laid out: Finance and people (read members). On the finance end, the Foundation for the Rotary Club of Honolulu has been very generous. All of the proposed projects are funded by the John Warren Foundation and the Maile Hale Foundation. There is even a little left over for allocation to other worthy causes. Let me know if you have a good idea that will take some funding and engage members.

BUT - Please don’t wait for someone to ask you to join their committee. If there was something someone said about one of their projects that interest you, reach out to them. Call or email **Lyla, Ann, Diana** or **Brian**. Let them know you’re willing to help. **Karin Holma** will need a lot of help with membership recruitment. Let her know if you have some ideas on how we can attract new members when we’re socially distancing. Bring a guest to one of these meetings. Let **Karin** or Martha know if they are interested in learning more about our club. It costs nothing, and you’ll feel better for doing it.

Rotarians are considered to be people of action. We are doers and this club has some incredible doers. Doing good in the world is what we’re about, and I know many of you are just chomping at the bit to get something done. The first thing on the agenda is help at Centennial Park. There will be many opportunities over the next year to put the finishing touches on this project. Notice I said “finishing” touches. It’s going to happen, folks. It’s coming along, and we’re going to finish this project during my term as president, and then, by God, we are going to celebrate!

It’s been said that we’re all in this COVID storm together but in different boats. Everyone is experiencing something a little different, and everyone has concerns about

the unknown. So let's start rowing, and let's try rowing in the same direction. The Rotary Club of Honolulu needs your support probably now more than ever. Become engaged. There will be opportunities to do things in the very near future.

One thing I've learned in my personal journey is that I feel better about me when I'm thinking about how I can help others. This includes Rotary. I can't control the amount of infections of Corona virus in Hawaii or the mainland or the world. I can't control the economy or the political situation here and abroad. I can control my feelings and I can be present, optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of Rotary and this club. We've been here for over 105 years. We'll be here for a long time to come. Please join me in this journey. Help me get us out of the fog. You'll feel better too. Thank You. Are there any questions?

[THANK YOU TO RICHARD MA OF PRESENTATION RESOURCES WHO HELP PUT THIS PRESENTATION TOGETHER.]

*Question/comment from **Jack Dwyer**:* "... wonderful presentation and people who did great work, even for this presentation, but talking about paddling in the right way and the same way, this Rotary club has an opportunity that will need an emphasis ... Centennial Park. Over the past couple weeks, there are many problems in my view to get money for the extra fuel that needs to be put in there. **Rob** could probably talk about this.... I think the Park needs to be the focus for this year and that the club will back it, be more involved, and directly involved."

*Reply to **Jack** by **President Rich**:* "It is our signature project and when all is said and done, will be a source of pride for us. So much work has been put toward it already, but more physical and financial is needed over the next 12 months for sure!"

Next week: Guest speaker, Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer
We will have the meeting again on Zoom, so please join us on that!

Robyn McCreary again takes pictures of those who are in meeting by screens.

Closing song was the Hawaii Aloha video by **Bub Wo**, played by Maestro **Brian Dunkel**...

Lee LaBrash, Scribe